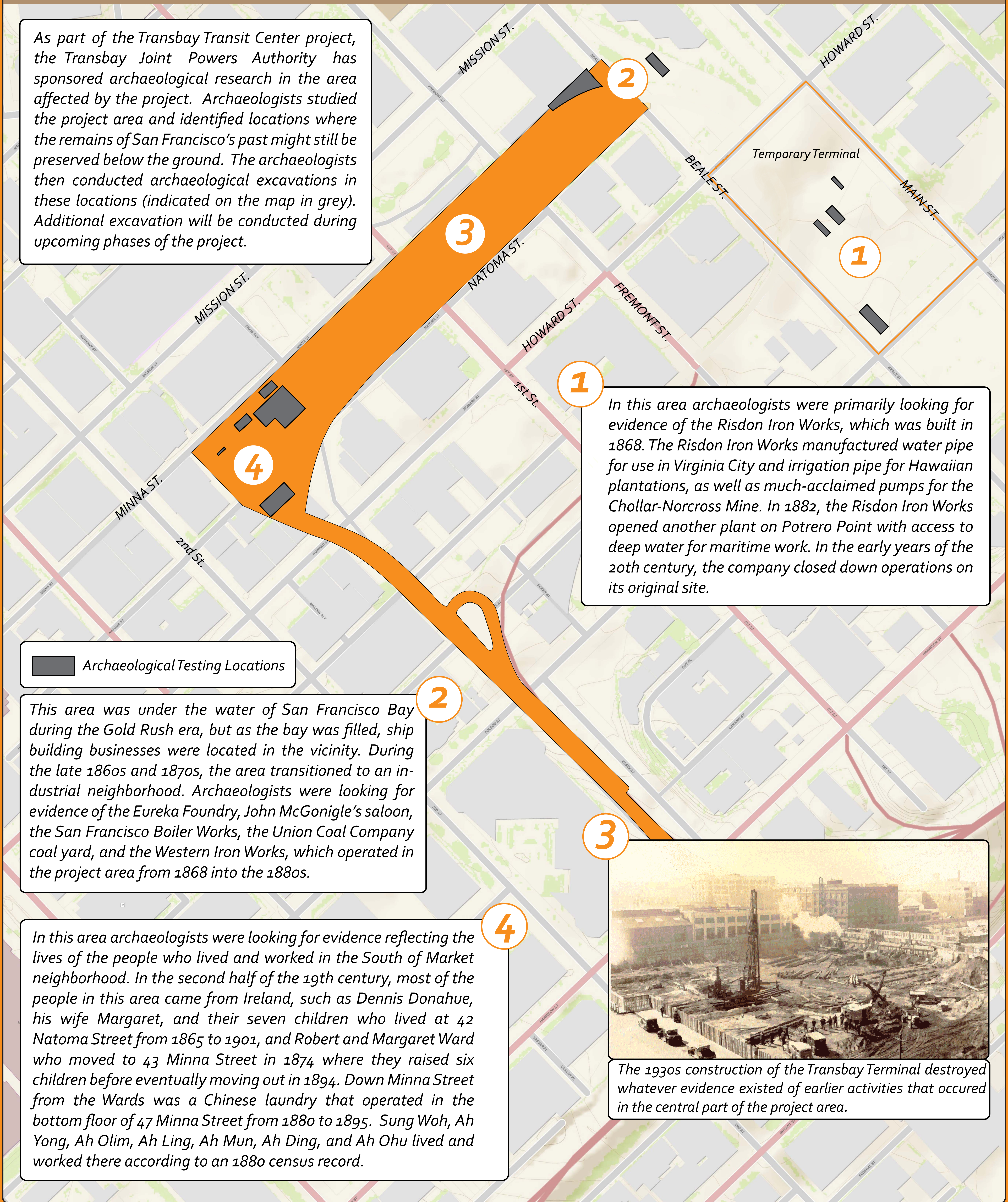


# ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE TRANSBAY TRANSIT CENTER

As part of the Transbay Transit Center project, the Transbay Joint Powers Authority has sponsored archaeological research in the area affected by the project. Archaeologists studied the project area and identified locations where the remains of San Francisco's past might still be preserved below the ground. The archaeologists then conducted archaeological excavations in these locations (indicated on the map in grey). Additional excavation will be conducted during upcoming phases of the project.



In this area archaeologists were primarily looking for evidence of the Risdon Iron Works, which was built in 1868. The Risdon Iron Works manufactured water pipe for use in Virginia City and irrigation pipe for Hawaiian plantations, as well as much-acclaimed pumps for the Chollar-Norcross Mine. In 1882, the Risdon Iron Works opened another plant on Potrero Point with access to deep water for maritime work. In the early years of the 20th century, the company closed down operations on its original site.

This area was under the water of San Francisco Bay during the Gold Rush era, but as the bay was filled, ship building businesses were located in the vicinity. During the late 1860s and 1870s, the area transitioned to an industrial neighborhood. Archaeologists were looking for evidence of the Eureka Foundry, John McGonigle's saloon, the San Francisco Boiler Works, the Union Coal Company coal yard, and the Western Iron Works, which operated in the project area from 1868 into the 1880s.

In this area archaeologists were looking for evidence reflecting the lives of the people who lived and worked in the South of Market neighborhood. In the second half of the 19th century, most of the people in this area came from Ireland, such as Dennis Donahue, his wife Margaret, and their seven children who lived at 42 Natoma Street from 1865 to 1901, and Robert and Margaret Ward who moved to 43 Minna Street in 1874 where they raised six children before eventually moving out in 1894. Down Minna Street from the Wards was a Chinese laundry that operated in the bottom floor of 47 Minna Street from 1880 to 1895. Sung Woh, Ah Yong, Ah Olim, Ah Ling, Ah Mun, Ah Ding, and Ah Ohu lived and worked there according to an 1880 census record.



The 1930s construction of the Transbay Terminal destroyed whatever evidence existed of earlier activities that occurred in the central part of the project area.



Archaeologists wash and catalog artifacts in the field before transporting them to the lab for analysis.



In addition to photographing features found during testing, archaeologists complete drawings to scale.



Remnants of wood planks depict the footprint of a small 19th-century structure.



This privy was encountered below the modern ground surface and its contents were excavated by archaeologists.



Archaeologists retrieve a cast-iron toilet, found during privy excavation.



Accurately documenting the location and depth of archaeological findings is essential to understanding the history of the city.



Archaeologists investigate a redwood drain. These were typically used to convey water in 19th-century San Francisco.



Privies like the one seen here were also commonly used as receptacles for household items. After it was abandoned, this privy was impacted by a brick foundation wall built to support a later building.